

Maitland Argues with Knox.

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hoist the danger signal on the walls of Zion, will speak his mind against all and sundry, in obedience to his conscience, even if he die for it. He may limit the right of free speech, but he will give an example of the right of such speech, come what will. Assuredly John Knox was in this respect a tough subject for a princess, nurtured in the principles of Valois despotism, to tackle. Mary might lose her dignity and her temper in the attempt, but Scotland had reason to be grateful to Knox, with all his intolerance, for daring, single-handed, to hold the citadel of Protestantism in spite of both the queen and the politicians.

Failing to silence Knox, Maitland then attempted a still more impossible task. He tried to argue with him, to convince him that he was wrong in maintaining his opposition to the queen. Before a commission of the General Assembly in 1564 he argued, till he nearly fainted from fatigue, in opposition to Knox's revolutionary views of the relation of sovereign and subject.

MAITLAND—"Whair find ye [in Scripture] that the Pro-pheittis of God speik so irreverentlie of kingis and princes ? "

Knox quoted various passages directing the apostles to speak plainly to men of their sins.

MAITLAND—"But they spak nothing aganis kingis in especiall, and yit your continewall crying is, 'The Quenis Idolatrie, the Quenis messe will provoke Godis vengeance.'"

KNOX—"I heir nocht Kingis and Quenis except, but all unfaithfull ar pronounced to stand in one rank and to be in bondage to ane tyrant, the devill."

MAITLAND—"Quhair will ye find that onie of the Pro-pheittis did so intreat Kingis and Quenis, reuleris, or magistratis ? "

Knox instanced Ahab and Jezebel, and the prophet Elias.

MAITLAND—"That was nocht cryit out befor the peopill to mak thame odious unto thair subjectis."

KNOX—"That it was whisperit in thair awn eir, or in ane corner, I reid nocht. But the plane contrair appeiris to me."

MAITLAND—"Thay wer singular motiounis of the Spreit of God, and appertene nothing to this our aige."

KNOX—^{<f}Sanct Paule teichis me that
'Whatsoever is